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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ADDIS ABABA 000373

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SE GRATION, S/USSES, AF A/S CARSON, AF/E, AF/PDPA,  
IIP/G/AF, RRU-AF, DRL/RSPRING  
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DEPT PLS PASS USAID FOR AFR/SUDAN

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#)  
SUBJECT: KENYA ASSERTS ITS ROLE IN SUDAN POST-2011  
DISCUSSIONS

Classified By: Classified by CDA John Yates for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

SUMMARY

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¶1. (C) During a February 1 meeting with U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Gration, Wetangula said that IGAD would support President Mbeki as the AU's representative on Sudan, but that the AU, UN, and United States must respect IGAD's historical role in North/South peace and involve IGAD in resolving post-2011 disputes. Wetangula proposed an IGAD Summit in Nairobi for the end of February to debut Mbeki and establish the mechanism for discussing post-2011 issues. He believed settling border disputes was the top priority and that while secession is generally undesirable, it is inevitable in Sudan and must be accepted. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan General J. Scott Gration travelled to Addis Ababa from January 27-February 2, 2010 to attend the AU Summit with the U.S. delegation.

Facilitating Post-2011 Discussions on Sudan

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¶3. (C) Wetangula began by outlining the historical role that IGAD has played in Sudan's North-South peace process. He said that the AU, UN, and other members of the international community, including the EU, United States, and China all looked to IGAD as the lead agency on Sudan and Somalia. IGAD had successfully negotiated Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and its two most successful pillars-a ceasefire in place since 2003 and the formation of the Government of Southern Sudan-have endured. Still, he said, hurdles remain.

¶4. (C) Special Envoy Gration asked Foreign Minister Wetangula how IGAD's efforts would fit in with those of President Thabo Mbeki on behalf of the African Union and solicited his ideas on how to build an effective region and international team to begin post-2011 discussions in Sudan. Wetangula replied that IGAD would support Mbeki, but that his portfolio did not go into enough detail on the CPA, and that he must work in unison with IGAD and others to resolve North-South border disputes, organize the referenda, manage post-referenda issues, and above all, ensure that Sudan does not slip back into conflict.

15. (C) Wetangula also noted that the UN had recently made two high-profile appointments with Gambari and Menkerios, and that U.S. Special Envoy Gration, representing a world superpower and partner in conflict resolution, was also given a role that takes a holistic view of Sudan (Note: Ibrahim Gambari was appointed Joint Special Representative for UNAMID and Haile Menkerios was appointed Special Representative for Sudan. End Note). Wetangula said that these groups should work together as a team in a horizontal leadership structure, since "people don't like vertical arrangements." He emphasized that because of its historical role in the CPA, IGAD would serve as "a lead agency( a first among equals on all CPA issues."

16. (C) Wetangula announced his intention to host an IGAD summit in Nairobi in mid-February, inviting the NCP and SPLM, the U.S. Special Envoy, and high-level leaders from the UN, AU, and EU. Because the NCP tends to "make things look so easy" and the SPLM tends to "make things look so impossible", Wetangula was inviting the parties to give them a hearing in front of the international community. In advance of the summit, Wetangula planned to travel to Khartoum and Juba with his Ethiopian counterpart, Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, to speak to Presidents Bashir and Kiir. He said that Mbeki would travel to Nairobi on February 4, and that he would speak frankly to Mbeki about his role. He emphasized the importance of the international community working together as a team that shares information and experiences, but that international community would be a source of dangerous weakness if the actors did not coordinate.

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#### Settling Border Disputes Chief Priority

17. (C) On the practicals of negotiating post-2011 issues, Wetangula said the priority was to resolve border disputes and define territories and areas of sovereignty. The best the U.S. Special Envoy can do for the region, he said, would be to lean on the North to define the boundaries as they were set on 1 January 1956. Failing to settle the borders would sow "(the seeds of tomorrow's conflict."

#### An Arms Race between North and South

18. (C) Wetangula discussed the importance of a peaceful divorce between North and South in the event of separation. He described an arms race between North and South, and said that Kenya had been helping the South build up its deterrence against the North because "we in the neighborhood don't want the South to be hopelessly weak and overrun". He added that Kenya was also supporting capacity-building in the South, including sending 15,000 teachers to improve schools.

#### Accepting Secession, Even As It "Rings Bad Bells"

19. (C) Wetangula said that if there had been no clear North/South divide between Arabs and Africans, he would never accept secession. The idea of secessionist movements "rings bad bells" in Kenya and in Africa, especially at a time when Africa is trying to work toward greater unity. In Sudan, however, he believed secession was inevitable, and so it must be accepted.

#### Participants in Foreign Minister Wetangula Meeting:

110. (U) General J, Scott Gration, U.S. special Envoy to Sudan  
Cameron Hudson, Director of Operations, Office of the U.S.  
Special Envoy to Sudan  
Miriam Estrin, Special Assistant to the Special Envoy, Office  
of the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan  
Kathryn Pongonis, Deputy Political/Economic Counselor, U.S.  
Embassy Addis Ababa

111. (U) SE Gration's Office has cleared on this cable.

